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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF

† MOSES † BIGELOW.

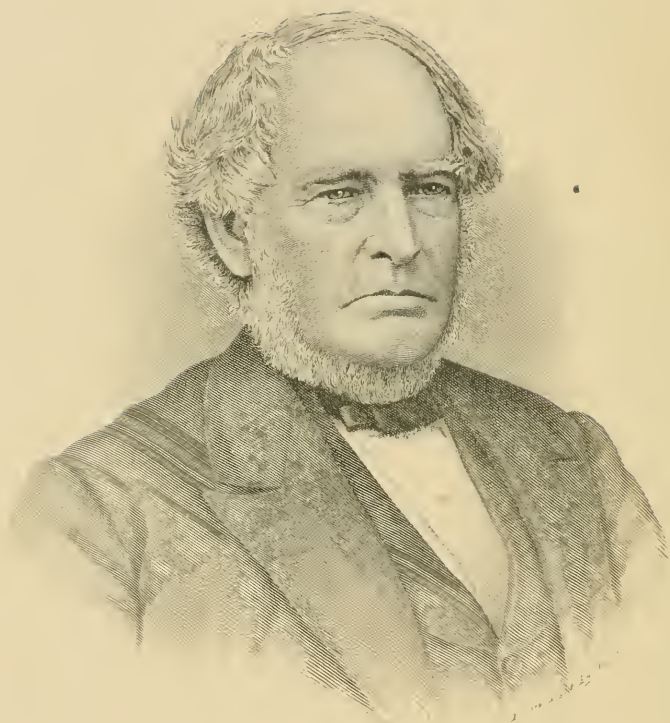


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SMITHSONIAN DEPOSIT



BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH
OF
MOSES BIGELOW,

WRITTEN BY REQUEST OF THE NEWARK
COMMON COUNCIL,

BY HIS SON

Samuel F.
SAMUEL F. BIGELOW, A. M.

NEWARK, N. J.

1890.

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MOSES BIGELOW.

CHAPTER 1.

BIRTH, ANCESTRY, YOUTH AND MARRIAGE.

MOSES BIGELOW, the twelfth Mayor of the City of Newark, was born at Lyons Farms, Essex County, New Jersey, on January 12, 1800. He was a son of Timothy Bigelow and Hannah Ogden Meeker Bigelow. His great grandfather, John Bigelow, a grandson of John Bigelow of Watertown, Massachusetts, was born in Hartford, Connecticut, in the year 1667, and after marrying Abigail Richards of Glastonbury, Connecticut, January 11, 1710, moved to New Jersey in 1714. His grandfather, John Bigelow, and his father, Timothy Bigelow, were natives of Hanover Township, Morris, formerly Hunterdon County, New Jersey. His ancestors both in New England and New Jersey, were people of means, and his grandfather made investments in

lands and mines in Morris County. They were also interested in public affairs and held various local offices.

His father, and his uncle Aaron Bigelow, were soldiers in the war of the Revolution. The former a boy, served in the ranks ; the latter obtained distinction as a lieutenant and as a captain. His mother was also exposed to the dangers and vicissitudes of that conflict, living during the war, the period of her childhood, in her grandfather's house near the "Stone School House" at Lyons Farms, a region subject to frequent hostile incursions by the Hessians of the British Army.

Mr. Bigelow married February 4th, 1836, Julia Ann Breckenridge Fowler, daughter of Dr. Samuel Fowler of Sussex County, the learned mineralogist and member of Congress from New Jersey during President Jackson's administration, and granddaughter of Colonel Mark Thomson, an officer of the war of the Revolution, a deputy of the Provincial Congress, and a member of Congress from New Jersey during President Washington's administration.

Mr. Bigelow's boyhood was spent at home. He attended school at Lyons Farms and Elizabeth, was studious and thoughtful, and when of age, had read

all the standard books at hand and excelled in many branches of knowledge, particularly in mathematics.

He thought of becoming a lawyer, and was entered as a student in the office of Governor William Sandford Pennington, and when diverted to other pursuits continued to have a leaning towards legal studies, which he afterwards pursued in a desultory way. He later manifested his interest in literary matters by joining several literary societies. He also became a member of the Franklin Literary Association, the Newark Library Association and the New Jersey Historical Society. He retained through life studious habits and his evenings were usually spent with his family and his books.





CHAPTER II.

EARLY NEWARK AND BUSINESS.

NEWARK from its birth was a town of manufacturers. Most of the settlers from Connecticut had learned useful handicrafts that they practised at times and taught their sons. To be a carpenter, a shoemaker, a wagonmaker, a blacksmith, a miller, a distiller, was better than to be a drudge on a farm, to care for cattle and to clear fence and cultivate new lands. Thus it was mechanics multiplied, and being skillful and industrious, and having easy communication by water with other towns, their fame spread rapidly, and Newark's reputation as an enterprising manufacturing town was established before the revolution. In 1806 a writer represented it to be "one of the most flourishing towns in the United States, noted for its fine Cider, Carriages, Coach-lace and Quarries." He also said: "At least one-third of the population, both in the town and the adjoining country, are employed in making shoes." In 1830 there were eighteen shoe factories in the town with a capital of \$300,000, employing 1075 hands.

In 1821, when Mr. Bigelow settled in Newark, it was a busy place of 7000 inhabitants, employed principally in making shoes, hats and carriages, for sale in the southern States.

Mr. Bigelow became a manufacturer of shoes for the southern market and was largely engaged in that industry until 1830. In the previous year his only brother David, a young man of great promise and much esteemed in Newark, five years his junior and only twenty-four years of age, died in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he had opened a warehouse for the sale of the goods manufactured in Newark, Mr. Bigelow's business plans were disarranged by the death of his brother, upon whom he was dependent for business assistance, and soon afterwards he withdrew from shoe manufacturing. Cincinnati, at the time referred to, was one of the country's frontier cities ; the facilities for intercourse between the east and west were few and rude and the risk great ; and the opening of a warehouse in that city at so early a date, and in his youth, is illustrative of enterprise characteristic of Mr. Bigelow,

His next venture was with Pruden Alling in the wholesale grocery trade in 1831, when he organized the firm of Bigelow & Alling, which carried on business on the north east corner of Broad and Market

Streets, contemporaneously with John H. Stephens and Joel W. Condit. The grocery business was an important industry of the town at that time ; transportation to and from New York was difficult and expensive, and country merchants from Essex, Morris, Passaic, Sussex and Hunterdon Counties bought their goods in Newark. Incident to the trade was the sale in bulk of imported and other liquors. Mr. Bigelow was always a temperate man in all things but never a teetotaler or prohibitionist in the use of intoxicating drinks. Believing that all reforms in politics, morals and religion, must proceed from the people as results of education, and could never be effects of legislation, he gave little heed to the visionary schemes of those well-meaning people who seek to prevent the use of liquors by legislative enactments, unsupported by popular sentiment.

There have been temperance revivals from time immemorial, little ripples to be soon overwhelmed by contrary and opposing currents without making lasting impressions on the surface of affairs. One of these revivals occurred while the firm of Bigelow & Alling was in existence.

There were no clubs then, and their store house centrally located, was the meeting place of leading citizens. Pending the revival a committee was ap-

appointed to wait upon the wholesale grocers to request them to discontinue the sale of liquors. Mr. Bigelow was of handsome person and of a gentle and retiring manner that attracted confidence. He received the committee graciously, listened to their request, and asked time for its consideration until the following Monday morning. He was always precise in pecuniary matters, and during the intervening time he estimated the loss on stock to the firm, if it complied with the committee's request. On Monday morning he informed the committee that the firm, appreciating their benevolent efforts, was willing to accede to their wishes if the committee and their associates would suffer half the loss made necessary by the abrupt closing of the business, and presented his estimate of the amount and extended to them the privilege of verifying it by the firm's books. It is needless to say the committee declined the offer. And yet so keen was his sense of honor and of personal accountability for the manner of his intercourse with his fellows that he would not continue in an occupation not approved by his conscience, and soon after withdrew from this profitable business.



CHAPTER III.

SOUTHERN BUSINESS AND THE FINANCIAL REVULSION OF 1837.

THE greater part of Newark's leading men of the period from 1825 to 1845 were descendents of the first settlers. Born in a locality associated with many reminiscences of the revolution, nurtured by pious mothers, trained by austere fathers, developed by exercises in the open air, with their forefathers' plain habits unchanged, and their natural impulses unrestrained by foreign associations, they were a public spirited, an honorable, a dignified, an intelligent, a self-reliant, enterprising, handsome body of men, who gave a tone to the town that lasted for many years. They identified their own and the town's interests, and were as careful of the town's reputation as of their own reputations, and even as late as 1860, it was said that none of Newark's public financial institutions had failed in its

obligations. Guided by this body of men the place made rapid progress. The manufactories were increased in number and extended in variety.

Shoe manufacturing continued a leading industry, but other industries also advanced rapidly, and among them, that of making clothing for the southern market, in which 1591 men were employed in 1835.

In 1836 Mr. Bigelow organized the firm of Robinson, Bigelow & Co., which a year afterwards was changed to Bigelow, Canfield & Ingraham, to manufacture clothing to be sold at wholesale to southern dealers. In this industry were then engaged many of Newark's shrewdest and most intelligent business men, and while it gave employment to a larger number of mechanics than any other trade, it gave promise of rich rewards to capitalists. Although not familiar with the manufacturing branch of the business, Mr. Bigelow had a practical experience and a general knowledge of finances that well fitted him for the successful operation of an extensive manufactory. He also commanded sufficient capital, and was fortunate in his associates.

Prior to 1836 Shipman, Robinson & Co., had made a large sum in the same business, and by

arrangement, their customers were transferred to the new firm. It will be recalled that this was the year preceding that of the great financial revulsion that most severely affected Newark and extended over the whole country.

In a letter to a friend dated February 5, 1844, Mr. Bigelow gives an interesting account of this business experience. In the first year the new firm manufactured \$107,000 and sold \$90,000 worth of clothing, of which \$49,878 were never paid. In 1840, when all the Mississippi banks failed, the firm paid from 30 to 58 per cent. discount for collections in that State, and almost as much in other southern States. During its business career the firm's bad debts amounted to more than one third its gross sales.

But other firms of equal standing suffered to a like extent from the country's disordered affairs, among them Andrew Rankin, Shipman & Co., Waldron, Thomas & Co., and Doremus, Suydam & Nixon, and numerous others of the highest repute for honor and sagacity, some of which fell never to rise again. Doctor John S. Darcy and John Alling gave their personal endorsements to sustain the house of C. Alling & Co., and James Vanderpool, father of a member of the firm, mortgaged his

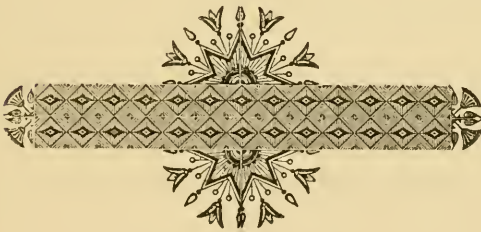
property for \$50,000 to the State Bank to further assist it. There was no business firm of repute in Newark that did not suspend payment in this unfortunate period.

The disastrous result of his last venture seriously affected Mr. Bigelow, but his conduct was so manly, and his course of action so honorable in his troubles, that public respect for him which had always been great was much increased.

The National Bankrupt Law gave relief from importunate creditors to many of his associates, but the solicitations of his friends were ineffectual to induce him to obtain peace in this way, and he paid his debts in full and ever afterwards had the highest credit.

The settlement of his disordered affairs required that he should visit his southern debtors. The facilities of locomotion in the whole country were rude then as compared with the present time; and, in the south especially, crude and uncomfortable; there were no steam cars; stage coaches were few and rough; steamboats on the great rivers, and saddle horses were the common conveyances. Mr. Bigelow traversed nearly all of the southern States, including Texas, on horseback, and although his experience was unpleasant in some respects, for, to

his great discouragement, he saw how poor and entirely unable to meet their moneyed obligations the people were, it was very beneficial in other respects, as it gave him a knowledge of the people and their domestic institutions that was very valuable, and that could have been acquired in no other way. Notwithstanding his heavy losses in that section, he never felt unkindly to the people.





CHAPTER IV.

MOSES BIGELOW & CO.

HIS marriage was contemporaneous with his engaging in clothing manufacturing, and he brought his young wife to a house on Park Place, adjoining the Park House, where he lived several years and his two oldest children were born. His wife had inherited an ample fortune from her grandfather, and at one time he contemplated removing with his family to one of her farms in Warren County, but could not overcome his aversion to seeming to be dependent on her, and patiently awaited the subsidence of the financial storm that had wrecked the country before commencing anew his career.

One effect of his reverses was to make him extremely cautious, and it was not until 1846 that he decided to again take the risks of trade. His business ability was recognized both in New York

and Newark, and several offers of copartnership in old mercantile houses of high standing in New York were declined by him.

In 1846 he decided to engage in varnish manufacturing. He felt that the trade was not susceptible of a development worthy of his energies and concluded to test its experiences for a year or two before joining his name to that of the firm of which he was a member. This test, while not altogether satisfactory, showed that, if the profits were not large, the risk was small, and in 1848 the firm of Bigelow and Price was created. Under his intelligent direction the business of this firm was extended to all parts of the country, and the firm became known as one of the strongest and most honorable in the trade. Its business methods were enterprising, intelligent, exact and reliable, and inspired confidence to such a degree that the firm's credit was always greater than its requirements. The profits annually increased and afterwards, under the title of Moses Bigelow & Co., the business yielded to Mr. Bigelow, until his death, a very large income, with which he generously maintained an expensive household in his handsome residence, 1020 Broad Street.



CHAPTER V.

AN OFFICER OF CORPORATIONS.

ONE of the wonders of this enterprising and changing country has been the multiplication of private and quasi public corporations. These corporations were so few and unimportant in their operations at the time of the creation of the Federal and State governments that they had slight consideration in framing the constitutions. It has been by legal fictions that the Federal Courts have obtained a complete and essential jurisdiction over them. Now that they may be organized under the general laws, they are so numerous and powerful as to fetter individual enterprise, and to divide with the legislatures the power of government.

When charters were obtained by special laws, incorporators were generally the most reputable citizens. The officers of the old Newark corpora-

tions were naturally the representative men of the town, and without wishing to detract from the merits of their successors, I cannot forbear to say that in innate ability, honesty, and vigorous manhood they excelled those to whom these dignities are now generally awarded.

Mr. Bigelow always found time amid his business cares for attention to matters that concerned the general welfare. He shirked none of the responsibilities of citizenship, and both in private and public matters cared for the general good. He was thus among the foremost in creating and maintaining substantial business institutions, and none of which he was an officer ever failed in its public obligations. He was energetic in promoting the construction of the Morristown, now the Morris & Essex Railroad, and in 1835, with J. P. Jackson and J. M. Meeker, a committee of citizens, successfully sought its incorporation by the legislature. He also obtained the charter of the Mechanics' Fire & Marine Insurance Company, long a leading institution. He likewise was an incorporator and a most active director of the Howard Savings Institution, and of the Firemen's Insurance Company, and for some time the latter's President. He also was an incorporator and a director of the Republic Trust Company, the

Citizens' Gaslight Company, and other institutions not now recalled

His conscientiousness was too great for him to hold a trust position, the duties of which he did not understand, and his intelligence sufficient for him to learn all the methods of the most intricate corporate business, so he always proved an active, valuable and influential member of every association with which he was connected, and the success which has attended many of these institutions is as much due to his good judgment, as to that of any other person.

Benevolence was well developed in Mr. Bigelow, and he sought those positions wherein he could assuage pain. He was an incorporator and first President of The New Jersey Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and by appointment of the Supreme Court, served faithfully for many years without compensation, as a trustee of the Trenton Asylum for the Insane, and was constant in attending the meetings of the Board and making inspections of the Asylum.





CHAPTER VI.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND ASSOCIATIONS.

AT no period in our country's history has political excitement been greater, and has party animosity been more bitter, than from the beginning of the century to 1845. The perennial questions about national banks, revenue tariffs, internal improvements, and the respective powers of the State and Federal governments were warmly, intelligently and exhaustively discussed. The Congressional reports of those days are political encyclopædias for the politicians of these days, and in the comprehensiveness of their arguments on these subjects verify to a certain extent the truth of the adage, "there is nothing new under the sun." Every man was then a politician, and every one, with superior intelligence, a student of political economy.

Developing into manhood during this period, Mr. Bigelow early formed opinions on these questions that were never changed.

Political lines in Essex County have been very closely drawn ever since the foundation of the government. There are few sons that have left their fathers' party. Federalist families produced Whigs; and they, the later Republicans. The earlier Republican families produced Democrats. There are a few exceptions to the rule, that serve to emphasize its significance. This continued family divergence in party associations is due in some degree to intellectual processes, but, in a greater degree, to sentiment. The influential men in Essex County of the revolutionary era accepted the doctrines of Adams and Hamilton and were Federalists; and their power transmitted was sufficient to keep the people in accord with the succeeding parties maintaining similar doctrines for many generations. It was not until 1856 that a Democrat was elected Mayor of Newark.

Mr. Bigelow accepted the doctrines of Jefferson and was a Republican and a Democrat all his life. In his fidelity to these doctrines and these parties, he never wavered under the most trying conditions.

His intimate associates were of the opposite parties, and his business interests and political ambitions would have been advanced by a change, but he never wavered even during the hot times of the war of the rebellion. In his younger days he co-operated in politics with the Van Arsdales, Elias and Jacob, Dr. John S. Darcy, Archer Gifford, Zephaniah Drake, Cornelius Dickinson, John H. Stephens, Henry S. Darcy, James Hewson, and James Thomson, and in his older days with William Wright, John C. Denman, Theodore Runyon, John McGregor, James Smith, Nathaniel C. Ball, Jerome B. Ward and Frederick H. Teese, who were local leaders of the democratic party, without seeking or desiring public office ; but frequently representing his party in local, state and national conventions.

Mr. Bigelow was in some respects well equipped to be a successful politician. He had a fine presence, benevolent manner, great sincerity, superior intelligence and an unsullied reputation. He was also cautious, reticent, independent, truthful, dignified, firm, and ambitious. His disposition and conduct were uniform in the privacy of home life and the publicity of affairs. He had, however, a personal pride that withheld him from unseemly efforts to advance his fortunes. He also abhorred bribery in

politics, and upon one occasion, spurned a gubernatorial nomination, to be obtained irregularly, and suffered a defeat in the state convention by a few votes. His popular strength was not unappreciated by his associates, but he was never a candidate for, and never held any popular office but that of Mayor of Newark.





CHAPTER VII.

ELECTED MAYOR OF NEWARK.

THE republican party was in its formative state in 1856, and divided into two factions, one of which nominated Theodore P. Howell, and the other Henry N. Parkhurst, for mayor. The democratic party nominated Mr. Bigelow, who was elected. He was the first democrat to be mayor of Newark, and took office in January 1857. He was elected several times until 1864, and then succeeded by ex-Chancellor Theodore Runyon, another democrat, who held office for one term, when a republican was again installed.

Mr. Bigelow took office January 6, 1857. The city then had a population of 57,000, and a variety of manufacturing industries in successful operation, and promised to be what it has since become, a most important and populous manufacturing centre.

The imperfections in the government were understood, and the necessity of changing its village forms realized. An improved charter, prepared by the common council and citizens, was obtained the same year, and it was necessary for him to recommend and supervise such changes in the city ordinances as would promote homogeneity between them and the charter.

To this work he devoted himself with a zeal and intelligence worthy of the highest praise. To facilitate taxation, he suggested the preparation of block maps of the city lots and streets, and re-numbering the houses ; to extinguish the public debt, he procured the establishment of sinking funds, saying: "It is unwise to create a debt without making at the same time some provision for its extinguishment, and unjust to burthen posterity with the whole debt." To procure better water, he induced the purchase of the rights of an old private water company, and the formation of the Newark Aqueduct Board, saying: "For an element so indispensable as water we ought not to depend on the pecuniary interest of a private company." He advocated and procured a reorganization of the police department, established the office of auditor, and fixed its methods of business, organized a dis-

pensary of medicines for the poor and a board of health, and obtained a codification of the city ordinances. It would be a work of supererogation to continue the enumeration of his efforts to improve the business methods of the city, to maintain its financial standing and to promote the health and comfort of the citizens. These efforts were unceasing and effective and were estimated at their full value by his fellow citizens, who, without distinction of party, awarded him full praise for his faithfulness and intelligence.

He was an aggressive mayor and exercised freely his right of veto, and in only one instance, when he opposed the purchase of the City Hotel, to be transformed into the present City Hall, was his veto disregarded. He exercised a careful supervision of all the city offices, observed the deportment of the clerks, and made regular examinations of their books, frequently inspected public works in progress, and ascertained the profits of contractors, and gave the same care to the public as to his private business.

The financial affairs of the city were his special charge during the war, and although the common council finance committee always co-operated with him, his methods were approved and his plans

adopted by them and all public loans were negotiated by him. In this time of general demoralization there were no embezzlements from the city treasury and no corrupt practices in the city business.

It is not out of place to narrate an incident in his official life to which the genial Governor William Pennington was a party.

The Mayor was very conscientious in the performance of his duties and never shirked any official responsibility. Believing it necessary to discipline an unfaithful subordinate, he was doubtful of his power, and casually consulted the Governor, inquiring whether the mayor had the necessary power. The Governor replied: "Certainly; certainly; if the charter does not give you the power, the common law does; the man should be punished." And he was punished despite the efforts of many politicians.

In his annual message of January 1861 to the common council, he expressed the views on civil service reform now held by many statesmen. He then said: "One of the most important functions devolving on you is the appointment of the officers of the city government, who are by law under the general supervision of the mayor. Capable, faithful and experienced incumbents, who take pride in an intelligent and faithful discharge of duties, will

lighten your labors and facilitate the transaction of public business. The object of the establishment of the several offices is the public good, which certainly can be best promoted by retaining in the public service men of capacity, experience, and fidelity. Claims to public place based on other grounds than the public good ought not to be recognized. The experience acquired by a faithful and competent officer is of great value to the public, and, if the rule be established, that the tenure of place depends on a faithful discharge of duty, and on that alone, the motives to perform that duty are increased and strengthened and the temptations to engage in electioneering schemes and to connive at practices inconsistent with the public interests are greatly lessened. I respectfully submit these suggestions, believing that the policy indicated will conduce to the greatest good of the people and receive their approbation."

Before the end of his term the municipal machinery was in good working order; laws and ordinances necessary for the proper exercise of municipal functions had been obtained, system in directing the financial affairs established, and capable officers selected for the several departments. Besides, the moral tone of the municipality had been

raised. Upon his induction to office the Mayor said to the Common Council: "The reputation of the city depends as much or more upon the character of her citizens as upon municipal regulations." He thought that a bad people could not be made good by good laws nor a good people bad by bad laws; other and more powerful causes operate to raise and to lower a people. He believed that laws to be effective must be representative of the people. And so, by precept and example he strove for the moral improvement of the citizens; and no one could recall any time in his long term of office when he had said or done anything unbecoming the exalted position of chief magistrate.

His influence with officials and people became very great, as was illustrated in the case of the latter, when a howling mob of several thousands, too numerous for the local police and military to cope with, that had assembled during the war to oppose the military draft, dispersed after a few words spoken by him, as he rode on horse-back among them.





CHAPTER VIII.

MAYOR DURING THE REBELLION.

HIS term as mayor extended through the war of the rebellion. If it were possible to separate democrats from republicans, it could probably be demonstrated that as many of the former as the latter participated in the war on the union side ; but it served political purposes to denounce all democrats as “copperheads” with rebel sympathies. A few civil officers of the government in subordinate positions were particularly offensive in their wholesale denunciations, and even the Mayor with his well known antecedents, did not altogether escape their vituperations ; indeed, upon one occasion, refusing to act officially in accordance with the suggestions of a petty United States civil officer, he was grossly insulted by him, when weak and dangerously sick in bed in his own home, where the subservient underling had meanly intruded. This officer was Falstaffian in all things but physical proportions, and probably enjoyed this manifestation of

undefined power. Such brutal illustrations of exuberant patriotism were few, and with this exception, the Mayor was always treated with the respect that he demanded and to which he was entitled.

Fortunately many of his public acts and utterances during this period are recorded. In his annual message to the Common Council on January 3, 1860, he said : " You are the representatives of a city with a national reputation for the superiority of its mechanical productions, and of the industrial metropolis of a state, proud of her revolutionary history, her steady devotion to the constitution, and the union, and of her individual loyalty to the rights of every other state. Whatever differences of opinion may arise among us on questions of local policy, our memories of the past, and our hopes for the future must ever conspire to remind us, that next to that kind Providence who has ever watched over us, our speeches, our acts and affections are due, in all sincerity, to the support of these principles, which respecting and upholding the rights of all, will forever preserve us, as one people, with one constitution, and one destiny."

And again on January 7, 1862, he said : " Every stipulation of the constitution should be regarded as sacred by every citizen, until altered or abolished,

because it is the great organic law of our confederacy, the solemn covenant of patriot fathers, and the political ligature of the nation."

"Whoever assails its authority, by word or deed, is an enemy of the Union of the States and the peace and happiness of his country. The government organized under it, is within its prescribed limits sovereign just as the several states are sovereign, except so far as they have delegated power to the general government. Both are sovereign within their respective spheres. It is the duty of both, as well as of every citizen, to be governed by and obey the constitution and the laws, as they are expounded and adjudicated by the appointed tribunals. Respect for and obedience to law is the highest political duty of every American citizen. If the law or the constitution require alteration, it is the people's prerogative to make it by the prescribed means."

And again on January 6, 1863, he said: "In my opinion the provisions of the federal constitution do not recognize the right of any state to withdraw from the union at its pleasure; nor had there arisen anything in the administration of the government to justify, in any mode, a separation of the states and the rupture of our national union, associated

with such precious memories, identified with our proudest and fondest hopes, and so essential to our prosperity at home, our respect and dignity abroad."

The Mayor had opposed the election of President Lincoln, but when the chief magistrate, enroute to Washington, passed through Newark, he was publicly received and escorted through the streets of the city by him ; Mr. Lincoln, the Mayor, and the ill-fated Colonel Ellsworth riding in the same carriage. This reception was cordial and dignified, and drew from Mr. Lincoln many expressions of praise ; and later in the war, then about to begin, he frequently referred to the ovation given to him in Newark, at the beginning of his term as the most cheering incident of his tiresome and dangerous journey to the capital.

Afterwards the Mayor presided at the great union meeting at the court house and appointed the relief committee of which Governor Marcus L. Ward was the efficient chairman. He also used his influence to obtain such appropriations of funds by the common council as were deemed necessary to properly equip the departing soldiers, and to provide for their families in their absence ; and under his supervision a large sum of money was paid to these families, at slight expense to the city.



CHAPTER IX.

HOME LIFE AND FAMILY.

IT IS not becoming to dwell upon the home life of Mr. Bigelow. It is sufficient to say that he was a most kind and indulgent father and husband, loved and venerated by his family that he always maintained in great elegance. He had five sons and two daughters, Samuel Fowler Bigelow, now a lawyer of Newark, Moses Bigelow, a manufacturer, who succeeded to his father's business, and married his cousin Lila, daughter of Colonel Samuel Fowler, of Sussex County, Julia F. Bigelow, who died unmarried soon after attaining her majority, Henry Bigelow, who died in infancy, Frederic Bigelow, who married Harriet VanRensselaer Bleecker, and died in his twenty-seventh year, and Josephene Bigelow, who married John C. Kirtland. Three only of his

children survived him, and his death, which occurred January 10, 1874, was probably accelerated by his domestic bereavements.

By his request without ostentation, his body was carried by his personal friends Beach Vanderpool, Joseph A. Halsey, Judge David A. Depue, Dr. J. Marshall Paul, Joseph N. Tuttle, David Campbell, Jabez P. Pennington, and Jeremiah C. Garthwaite to a tomb in Mount Pleasant Cemetery that he had already prepared, and placed in the same plot with the bodies of his father and mother and children; and probably every one of the large concourse of mourners at his obsequies concurred in the sentiment expressed by Rev. Jonathan F. Stearns, who officiated on the occasion. "When he died a natural gentleman passed away."







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